



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
27 DECEMBER 1966

1. Yugoslavia

The series of violent demonstrations against US Vietnam policy must be embarrassing to the relatively liberal men now dominant in the party and the government. The top leadership had approved the idea of peaceful protests, but surely had not anticipated violence.

We suspect that conservative elements in the party may have spotted an opening to provoke trouble and thereby express their dissatisfaction over current political trends in Belgrade.

Another factor in the violence may have been the general erosion of central authority in recent months. This has reached the point where even the police are now sometimes unsure whether to take action in situations which they would have waded into a year ago without hesitation.

2. Indonesia

The stop-and-go drive to force Sukarno out has picked up steam again. General Suharto seems to be looking to early next spring as the culmination of his phased program against Sukarno. But it would be easier all around if Sukarno should see fit to take a trip abroad well before then. He is probably being pressed to do so now.

The big military parade set for tomorrow in Djakarta is presumably to be a show of force to impress Sukarno with his weakening position.

3. Soviet Union

CIA researchers have taken a new look at the question of computers in the Soviet economy. Some of their findings are summarized below:

--Because of their concentration on computers for military and scientific purposes, the Russians are far behind the US in the use of computers for solving commercial problems. Moscow uses less than 15 percent of available computers for commercial work; nearly 60 percent of ours are so employed.

--In terms of numbers, we have more than 15,000 computers for commercial purposes; the Soviets have less than 500.

--Because of this great lag, the Russians have to employ about three million people to do their accounting work--most of which is still done by abacus and desk calculators. One Soviet scientist, who likes to play with projections, predicts that his country may be suffocated by paperwork. He calculates that if present methods remain in force, the volume of paperwork will increase by 3,000 percent by 1980.

4. Nigeria

The slide downhill toward a breakup of the country and civil war continues. The head of what remains of the federal government seems to be seriously underestimating the strength of the recalcitrant governor of the Eastern Region. Both are under pressure from close aides to abandon further efforts to negotiate. Both are collecting weapons and preparing for the worst.

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5. South Vietnam

Ky's minister of labor told US Embassy officers today that he thought the port strike might last only two or three days. He said that he is trying to isolate the two strike leaders from their parent union and from the stevedore companies. This may be largely talk.

Both of the rebel union leaders are now said to be threatening to broaden the strike to include other dockworkers throughout the country, as well as other types of workers in Saigon.

6. North Vietnam

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7. Jordan

Husayn has succeeded in delaying a final Arab decision on the entry of foreign troops and planes into Jordan.

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Predictably, the Jordanian tactic evoked a new rash of invective from the Palestine Liberation Organization. The official radios in Cairo and Baghdad were also critical of the delaying tactics.

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